STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200

June 6, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to urge the California Ocean Protection Council to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams on the Klamath River.

The Klamath River used to be one of the most productive salmon rivers in the lower 48 states and sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of salmon return this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently cut harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks. These cuts could cause a loss of more than $100 million to the commercial fishing industry, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a re-licensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding the issue is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Hausch, Chief Deputy
for

PETER DOUGLAS
Executive Director

CC: Doug Bosco, California Coastal Conservancy
Sam Schuchat, California Coastal Conservancy
Michael Bowen, California Coastal Conservancy
Bob Merrill, California Coastal Commission

Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE

Regular Meetings on the First and Third Thursday of Each Month

P.O. Box 1348 • HOOPA, CALIFORNIA 95546 • Phone 625-4211 • Fax 625-4594

Clifford Lyle Marshall
Chairman

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly unlikely this information would ever be developed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chairman Clifford Lyle Marshall
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

JUN-07-2005 TUE 05:46 PM American Rivers FAX NO. 2023479240 P. 01

BRINGING RIVERS TO LIFE

American Rivers
FOUNDED 1979

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, American Rivers urges the California Coastal Conservancy to fund the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack some important information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and

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chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is unlikely this information would ever be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fahlund
Vice President for Protection & Restoration

Jun-07-05 02:38pm From-NORTHCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER 707 822 0827 T-759 P.001/001 F-978

the Northcoast Environmental Center

7 June 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy, ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Northcoast Environmental Center is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to grant funding to study sediments trapped behind the Klamath River dams.

The Klamath-Trinity River was once the third–most productive salmon river on the West Coast, providing many thousands of fishing jobs on North Coast of California and Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported Indian tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, more than 250 miles upstream. Because these fish spend up to three years in the ocean, they also contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Klamath salmon populations, now however, have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, adversely affecting tribes and coastal fishing communities. The Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon this year to protect weak Klamath stocks. The move represents an economic loss of more than $100 million to the North Coast commercial fishing industry alone and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon and other anadromous fish from reaching some 350 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations is a serious topic of consideration in thePacifiCorp Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding.. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

As well, PacifiCorp has convened confidential negotiations among key Klamath baisn stakeholders in the Klamath basin to achieve an agreement as to what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study could provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim McKay, executive director

TM/me
CC: Congressman Mike Thompsen, Senator Wes Chesbro, Assemblymember Patty Berg

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(707) 822-6918 ~ Fax (707) 822-0827 ~ email: tim@yournec.org

CALIFORNIA TROUT

KEEPER OF THE STREAMS

June 3, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, California Trout is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would

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